

# MEXICO MISSOURI MESSAGE.

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NO. 1

## MEXICO "WETS" WILL CONTEST

Local Option Case Taken to the State Supreme Court

Jefferson City, Mo., Nov. 13. The validity of the local option election held on October 27 at Mexico, in which the "drys" won, was assailed in proceedings filed today in the Supreme Court to compel the County Court of Audrain to issue a dramshop license to William Kemper. The suit was a mandamus, and the court issued an alternative writ returnable the first Monday in December. The case will be heard on its merits in January.

The principal ground of attack is that the county unit law is in effect, and that the old local option statutes authorizing a city of 200 or more inhabitants to vote separately stands repealed. Upon this point the petition for mandamus says:

"The City Council had no jurisdiction to order the election, because the Legislature, by act of March 10, 1913, repealed section 7239 and enacted the county unit bill. Though certain referendum petitions are on file with the secretary of state, yet the act of March 10, 1913, has not been annulled, as the secretary of state has not counted the names on the petitions and compared the same with the vote for justice of the Supreme Court and determined the legal sufficiency of the petition as required by section 57, article 1 of the constitution of Missouri. The secretary of state, not having made the proper preliminary determination as to the petition, the act of March 10, 1913, is in force, and has not been annulled, and therefore section 7239 stands repealed."

Under this construction of the referendum provision of the St. Louis home rule laws are now effective, and Mayor Kiel would have authority to appoint the police and excise officials. The secretary of state has counted the signatures upon none of the referendum petitions, and does not need to for several months, for the laws can not be voted upon until November, 1914.

Attorney General Baker held in an opinion that the fling of referendum petitions sufficiently signed suspends a law until voted upon. The fact that the secretary of state has not officially counted the signatures upon a full crew law, the county unit and the home rule police and excise law, makes it impossible for him to say whether the petitions are legally sufficient or not.

The referendum petitions were brought into the office of the secretary of state and he received them and went through the necessary preliminaries incident to filing them. Owing to the press of work in the preparation of the Blue Book, printing of the new session acts and securing corporation reports, signatures have not been counted. If the Mexico mandamus is sustained it will upset every local option election held since the county unit law was approved by Gov. Major on March 19, where the election did not embrace the entire county.

The suit was filed by George Robertson and J. P. McBlaine, attorneys at Mexico. The issuance of the writ does not set aside the election and the town will be dry unless the election is ultimately invalidated by the Supreme Court.

### SOME INTERVIEWS.

W. W. Braden: I reckon 1,000 or maybe 1500 head of cattle have been shipped into the Laddonia community lately. They will be fed and put on grass next season. Even if we didn't raise heavy crops, there are plenty of good stalk fields.

Henry Schleeter: Everything's all right down Farber way. Mine was a total crop failure this last season. I and dozens of farmers round about are shipping in corn, hay, oats and alfalfa from Kansas City. I bought early, when alfalfa was \$16 a ton, now it is about \$20. I have been in this country ten years and this is the first time I have failed to raise my feed.

John E. Mundy: I'm a Good Samaritan to horses—I don't pass them by if one gets sick. My neighbors keep me quite busy since so many horses here and there over the country have been dying with that so called fodder disease. I have treated 18 cases lately and only lost one. I inject from 10 to 15 gallons of warm water into an animal. It brings the dead pin worms and bots, and the horse gets well. That's all you want, the cure of the horse, and you don't have to know much to give such treatment.

J. H. Jones: I live in Audrain, just north of the railroad, two and one-half miles east of Centralia. A good country up there. We are always glad at our house when the Message gets in on its weekly visits.

Judge W. W. Botts: They tell me that Noble Barnes tells it on himself that he is becoming so lean and thin in flesh that when he gets a pain he is not able to say whether it is in front or behind. I've been going lean too for some time, but Mrs. Botts is a water drinker, and she has gotten me in the habit, and I feel better.

Leon Bybee: I'm satisfied with rural life. Don't think I would like it in town. It's a true saying. God made the country, but I'm sure he did not make the towns. He is not the father of wickedness and the sins of the lower world.

### SANTA FE ITEMS.

Nov. 17.—Good roads gone and business dull.

Earnest Smiley has had a serious time with a felon on his thumb, but is better.

Mattie Bess Sherman spent a few days with her mother and sister in Monroe City last week.

Mrs. Bert Smith and little daughter spent several days last week with relatives in Perry.

Tom Crump and family visited Mr. Crump's mother last Wednesday eve. They made the trip in Mr. Crump's new car.

Mrs. John Trimble of Montgomery City spent several days last week with Mrs. Robt. Smiley. J. B. Stephens and son transacted business in Mexico Thursday.

Mrs. Dr. Johnson has moved from Centralia to Mexico. She likes our city, and we hope she may like it better and better the longer she remains here. The Message is glad to record her as one of our citizens.

The rain last week helped the farmers, especially those who were short on water for live stock.

John Edwards, southeast of Mexico, was quite sick last week.

## PROGRAM

OF AUDRAIN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CONVENTION

MONDAY, NOV. 24,  
1 9 1 3

McMILLAN HIGH SCHOOL  
MEXICO, MO.

### Program

- 8:30. Enrollment of school board members and clerks.
- 9:00. What preference should be given to the old teacher, if successful? Why? Walter Boyd, D. W. Carper, W. H. Fields, S. J. Bowne, Jr.
- 9:30. What is the responsibility of the school board as to the health of the children? W. S. Claypool, Dr. Paul Coil, Dr. R. W. Berrey.
- 10:00. What records should the clerks keep? C. M. Denmark, J. H. Sallee, J. E. Sims.
- 10:30. What reports should be made to the district clerks? S. C. Groves, Bert L. Frisbie, H. L. Burwell.
- 12:00. Noon.
- 1:30. Why should the school room be kept neatly painted, both inside and outside? Why should it not be papered? J. G. Ware, C. M. Berry, J. W. Brockman.
- 2:00. The value of Agriculture in rural schools. R. H. Emberson.
- 2:45. Outbuildings should be kept well repaired and clean. Lime is a good disinfectant. C. W. Hoyt, L. J. Parker, J. W. Stephens.
- 3:15. Walks, where? what kind? why? R. L. Barnes, W. C. Shoup, Jno. J. Johnston.
- 3:35. Who should make plans for new school buildings? Dan Quinlan, W. C. Offutt, Clyde Ellis.
- 4:00. Address by representative from Kirksville.
- 4:45. Issuing of certificates of attendance of school officers.
- 5:00. Adjourn.

### COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS

To Meet in Convention in This City Next Monday.

Prof W. Clyde Johnson has sent out the following to School Boards in the county:

Dear Mr. Director:—This is our first annual School Board Convention. Let us make it a good one. All our neighboring counties have had large, enthusiastic, and profitable meetings. Are we going to fall behind them? Won't you come, if possible? If not, please send a substitute. Get all others to come who will. Several districts in Adair sent large delegations of their patrons.

Please be prepared to make a ten or fifteen minute talk on the subject as requested on the program. Also to take part in general discussion of all the subjects.

Hoping that we shall have a rousing meeting and earnestly desiring your presence,

I am yours truly,  
W. Clyde Johnson.

J. S. Asbury, east of Mexico, lost his barn by fire last Thursday afternoon.

### WEST DULY.

Remember Saturday night, the 22nd, there will be an agricultural lecture at Sun Rise church by Hon. Kelly Wright. Everybody invited.

Maye and Frances Powell entertained the Sun Rise Missionary girls to dinner Sunday, and they also had choir practice Sunday night.

The W. C. T. U. of this vicinity will meet at Trinity church Thursday afternoon, 2 o'clock, the 20th.

There will be a Sunday school rally at Sun Rise the fifth Sunday in this month. Everybody invited.

Margaret Paullin is improving slowly.

Quite a bit of fall plowing done.

The Baptist revival meeting at Union Chapel church southeast of Mexico, closed last Sunday. There were a number of conversions and additions to the church. Rev. Eames of Lincoln county did the preaching.

Bill Taylor, colored, got a fine in Justice John Wayne's court last Friday on the charge of bootlegging.

### EAST END NOTES

A Child's Narrow Escape—Spirit-ed Silver Medal Contest.

Vandalia, Mo., Nov. 18.—It is estimated that a four inch rain fell in this locality Friday and Saturday.

Miss Mary McCann of Farber came Saturday to visit Miss Maude Barbee.

Mrs. Edwin Webber visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Shoup of Laddonia last week.

Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Simpson, of Paris, have been visiting their aunt, Mrs. Zach Bondurant.

Grover Webber of Vandalia moved to his farm on Cuivre last week.

Rev. Luke Kirtley filled his appointment at the Pleasant Plains Baptist church the second Sunday. Bro. Kirtley has accepted a call from the West Cuivre Baptist church and filled an appointment there Sunday.

The residence of Jas. Fields in the Mt. Olivet vicinity with all of the contents was burned recently. The house was partly covered by insurance, but the contents mostly belonged to his son, Lefe Fields, were a total loss of something over \$500. The latter's four months old baby came near perishing in the flames, but was rescued by the heroic efforts of L. D. Deaton.

Mrs. Ed. Tuggle and daughter, Aurelia, have been visiting relatives in Hannibal.

The Cuivre W. C. T. U. medal contest was held at the Pleasant Plains Methodist church Saturday night, attended by a good audience considering the weather. There were six contestants and all handled their subjects well. Their subjects were as follows: "A Victim of the Pay-Check System," by Miss Ida Deaton; "The Ship Went Down," by Miss Celia Tipton; "A Plea for Rum," by Miss Mabel Day; "A Resubmissionist's Story," by Miss Goldie Keith; "The Four Mills," by Miss Ruby Maxwell, and "The Convict's Soliloquy," by Miss Lois Northcutt. It was a splendid contest and each one showed careful training and were given much applause. The judges were Miss Zelma Doyle and Warren Lewellen of Vandalia and Mrs. L. S. Simpson of Paris, who awarded the medal to Miss Lois Northcutt. Miss Mary McCann of Farber also ably delivered a very fitting subject, also little Miss Fern Whitledge spoke a well suited selection. The program was interspersed with excellent music. A duet by the little Misses Keith was much appreciated. A solo by Miss Maude Barbee; a base solo by W. S. Barbee; a quartette, "Come off the Fence," by Messrs. Barbee, Lewellen, Nuckles and Bondurant, and other suitable selections by the choir made the occasion a decided success. Miss Maude Barbee is president of the contest work in the Cuivre Union and had charge of the program, doing much credit to herself on the occasion.

McMillan High School of this city has received a challenge from Hannibal High School for a debate on "Single Tax," to be held in Mexico. The wording of the question is: "Resolved, That the System of Taxation known as Single Tax should be adopted in Missouri." The date is set at December 12th. McMillan has chosen the affirmative of the question. The two schools discussed this question last spring in Hannibal and McMillan lost by a two to one vote. Each school has the same side of the question as it had before.

## SET FIRE TO 3 BUILDINGS

Arthur Cox, 18 Years Old, Makes Confession

Last Wednesday night just before the big town clock struck the midnight hour a call was sent in for the Fire Department. A shed in the rear of C. I. Day's store was discovered to be burning. This was put out and then came another call for a blaze in the barn on the McIntire property near Odd Fellows' Hall. This was extinguished and then came a third call for the department: a barn belonging to Chas. Peterson, near the C. & A. Station, was on fire. The fires were all put out with small difficulty.

These fires were all started within an hour. It was evident that an incendiary was at work. The officers soon had Tom Cook and Arthur Cox in tow, arrested on suspicion. Cox plead his guilt in a few hours to Sheriff Barnett and Prosecuting Attorney Whitson. Cook is held to await further developments.

We understand that Cox claims he was drunk when he started the fires. This is more criminal costs for the county that Mexico may have booze.

### THE MUTUAL TELEPHONE

The Farmers Urged to Get Together.

Laddonia, Mo. Nov. 17.—Mr. Editor: One of the first things I noticed in your last week's paper was the building of the Centralia-Mexico Trunk Line Telephone to Mexico. I am glad to learn of the Mutual Telephone Co. getting together on terms, but note that you say "Will the East End now line up?" Now, Mr. Editor, the East has never been out of line as we see it. We are strictly in favor of mutual connections with all mutual telephone companies, that treat us likewise.

And at the close you say, "Now let Vandalia, Farber and Laddonia come back." Now the new Mexico Mutual Tel. Co. refused exchange with any of these companies in the East end. Now what would you have done but as we did? They continued to send messages over our system after we were refused connection. And now I don't think there are but very few in the East end but what are in favor of Mutual connection.

Now if the citizens and business men of Mexico and surrounding country will lend their assistance to the Mexico Mutual Tel. Co. it will grow and thrive and they will find that maybe they could have two systems cheaper than one, and the Mexico Mutual Tel. Co. could soon be self-supporting.

Now as I have taken enough of your valuable space, mark me down as one for free mutual telephone connection with all mutual telephone companies. Get together, and understand each other, and we will have it.

J. F. Parker.

## Mexico Savings Bank

Capital Stock, \$150,000.00

43rd Year in Business.

W. W. FRY, President.

SAM LOCKE, Cashier.